

HOUSE BILL 1897

By Shipley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 7; Title 13; Title 49; Title 59 and Title 67,
relative to energy.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 7, is amended by
adding the following language as a new section:

§ 4-3-718.

(a) The general assembly finds that:

(1) The efficient and economical development of coal to liquid
fuels technology is necessary for national energy security, national and
state economic growth, and the integrity of the environment;

(2) The United States is dependent on imports of oil from
unstable regions of the world and from nations whose interests may or
may not converge with the interests of the United States;

(3) Dwindling oil reserves and increasing demand also threaten
the nation's energy security;

(4) Increasing energy efficiency and using fuels through the
development of coal to liquid fuels technology and carbonite technology
will ease this nation's dependence on foreign oil imports and domestic oil
supplies; and

(5) Increased development of coal to liquid fuels technology and
carbonite technology will create jobs in this state through facilities

construction, operation, and maintenance and through fabrication of products from local coal production;

(b) In furtherance of its duties under this part, the division of energy shall, by rule, establish a pilot program for the development and testing of coal to liquid fuels technology and coal to carbonite technology production techniques and conversion technology. Such development and testing will focus on increasing the efficiency and economy of creating such products. The pilot program shall be located in any county having a population of not less than one hundred fifty-three thousand (153,000) nor more than one hundred fifty-three thousand one hundred (153,100), according to the 2000 federal census or any subsequent federal census.

(c) Staff members from community colleges located in such counties shall provide direction and guidance for the pilot program.

(d) The pilot program established pursuant to this section shall encourage state and private sector research of coal to liquid fuels technology, including but not limited to the commercial development of such technology.

(e) The division of energy shall define and develop additional components of the pilot program in order to facilitate the purposes of the program. The pilot program shall continue in existence until July 1, 2012.

SECTION 2. This act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. The commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.